REMEDIAL SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION - EPA REGION II

EPA ID: NJD049644438 **Site Name:** DIAMOND AEROSOL CORP **State ID:**

Alias Site Names: DIAMOND EAST LABORATORIES
ELECTRO ORGANIC
SELVAC COMPANY
WASHINGTON LABS INCORPORATED

City: GLEN GARDNER **County or Parish:** HUNTERDON **State:** NJ

Refer to Report Dated: 01/16/2002 **Report Type:** Site Inspection Prioritization 001

Report Developed by: START

DECISION:

☐ **1. Further Remedial Site Assessment under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:**

☐ **1a. Site does not qualify for further remedial site assessment under CERCLA (No Further Remedial Action Planned - NFRAP)**

☐ **1b. Site may qualify for action, but is deferred to:**

☒ **2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:**

2a. Priority: ☐ **Higher** ☒ **Lower**

2b. Other: (recommended action) Low

200092

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DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:

This site is a low priority for further assessment. The EPA Removal Program is currently conducting a removal action at the site. The score is driven by the large population served by the drinking water intake and the uncontained PCB soil piles located onsite. If the Removal Program were to remove the soil piles and submit post removal sampling data, the site could be rescored and possibly NFRAP.

Diamond Aerosol Corp. is a 40-acre active former cosmetics and tear gas manufacturing facility located in Hunterdon County NJ. The site began operation blending water-based latex adhesives and water-based latex sealants in the 1960s and 1970s. Nail polish remover, fragrances, cosmetics, and tear gas were also manufactured onsite until 1986. Some ingredients used onsite included detergents, sodium and potassium hydroxide, pyruvic acid, benzoic acid, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, methylene chloride, and cyanide. Prior to 1968, organic chemicals were manufactured in an old stone barn on the southwest corner of the property. This old stone barn still exists in poor structural condition and houses an unknown number of glass jars containing unknown chemicals. Waste material and drums were disposed of in a landfill located west of the stone barn. Solid materials and VOCs were also disposed of in a lagoon south of the old stone barn. The lagoon and landfill were excavated in 1983 by the NJDEP and the contaminated soil was disposed of on the property, where it is still located. Two drums containing PCB contaminated soil are located near the soil piles. Groundwater contamination by VOCs was documented by the NJDEP in the 1980's-90's and nearby residential wells were found to contain low levels of trichloroethane and Freon. Previous private well sampling indicated high levels of methylene chloride (1800 ppb). This contamination was deemed to be due to lab contamination, however, methylene chloride has been used at the site and drums are still located there.

GW: An observed release of site attributable contaminants has been documented. Groundwater samples taken from an onsite monitoring well located in the wetlands indicate the presence of low estimated levels of CFCs and VOCs including TCE, which were also detected in upgradient soil samples onsite. All other groundwater samples collected from onsite monitoring wells indicate non-detect concentrations for all organic analytes (with the exception of an estimated 2 ppb chloroform in one monitoring well) and background comparable concentrations of metals. Analysis of potable wells located within one quarter mile of the site indicated non-detect concentrations of organics (with the exception of 5 wells with low estimated levels of bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate) and background comparable concentrations of metals. Four potable wells had concentrations of iron and/or manganese that exceeded the EPA's and NJ's recommended upper limits. These households were referred to the Hunterdon County Health Department. The nearest drinking water well is onsite with a depth of 80 feet. 17,676 people are served by private wells within 4 miles.

SW: There is no observed release to surface water nor is one suspected. Surface water samples taken from the Spruce Run Creek, it's tributary, and the adjacent onsite wetland indicate non-detect values for all organic analytes. Two surface water samples indicate the presence of several metals including arsenic, cadmium, and chromium at concentrations greater than 3 times background, however these metals cannot be attributed to onsite operations. Sediment samples collected from the onsite wetland and the Spruce Run Creek tributary indicate the presence of acetone and bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate. These substances were also detected at elevated concentrations in background sediment and soil samples. The concentrations were also qualified, and when adjusted, resulted in the adjusted background concentrations exceeding the adjusted release samples.

Due to the presence of the PCB soil piles and the VOC/CFC contaminated surface and subsurface soil, with no functioning runoff management system, there is the potential for contaminants to migrate to the onsite wetland and the Spruce Run Creek tributary. Targets associated with the 15-mile TDL include fisheries associated with the Spruce Run Creek, Spruce Run Reservoir, and the South Branch of the Raritan River, habitats for 9 state-listed threatened and endangered species, and approx. 4 miles of wetlands frontage. Spruce Run Creek is designated for primary recreation use. A surface water intake is located 8 miles from the site in the Spruce Run Reservoir and serves approximately 1.5 million people.

SE: There are observed areas of soil contamination on the Diamond Aerosol property. Analytical results indicate that surface and subsurface soil are contaminated with VOCs, CFCs, and PCBs. PCBs are contaminating the staged soil piles and the surface soil immediately downgradient of the piles on the western portion of the site near the stone barn. VOCs such as carbon disulfide, DCE, TCE, toluene, and cyclohexane, as well as several CFCs, are contaminating the subsurface soil in the septic leach field. CFCs were detected in soil samples collected adjacent to and downgradient of the drum storage area.

Two people live onsite and within 200 feet of observed soil contamination. Six people work on or within 200 feet of contamination. Approximately 12 people occupy residences immediately adjacent to the site but not within 200 feet of observed contamination. Commercial agriculture, livestock production, and grazing occur within 200 feet of the site boundary, but not within an area of observed or suspected soil contamination.

Air: A release to air has not been observed nor is one suspected.

Site Decision Made by: KRISTIN DOBINSON

Signature: Kristin Dobinson **Date:** 02/05/2002

EPA Form # 9100-3